

Universal Service Fund - "Written Comment" Topic Areas

Comments Due: September 1, 2006

I. PROGRAM DESIGN (Staff Recommendation I)

- ? Purpose of USF program
- ? Aggregate cap on Annual Funding/Predictable Program Costs
- ? Percent of income as target
- ? Fixed credit
- ? Application period (Fixed Window vs. Rolling Benefit)
- ? Preprogram arrearage forgiveness

II. BENEFIT DISTRIBUTION (Staff Recommendations III and IV)

- ? \$1,800 cap on benefits
- ? Levelized billing (Budget Billing) and benefit distribution
- ? Availability/purpose of HEA crisis grants

III. FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY (Staff Recommendations V and VII)

- ? Utility audits
- ? Clearinghouse Report

IV. ONE STOP SHOPPING (Staff Recommendations II and III)

- ? Valid program entry points (e.g., HEA, Food Stamps, Lifeline, other programs)
- ? Recommended method by which to integrate of USF with LIFELINE and HEA
- ? Information required at each program entry point
- ? Responsibilities of program partners re: resolution of client application issues
- ? Client rights and agency process with respect to benefit denial

V. COMMUNICATIONS (Staff Recommendation II)

- ? Communication with program participants
- ? Outreach to nonparticipants
- ? Priorities: information, education, counseling presentation

VI. PROGRAM MEASURES (Staff Recommendation VI)

- ? Recommended performance measures
- ? Annual goals
- ? Cost-effectiveness in relation to goals